



Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Issued Monday 3:00 PM; April 21, 2008

Week Ending April 20, 2008

CORN PLANTING PICKS UP SPEED

Drier conditions towards the middle of the week helped corn producers triple their planting progress from a week earlier, but progress remained about two weeks behind normal. Most of the State’s winter wheat has been top dressed with a small fraction beginning to head. The crop rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. Moderate to severe flood damage occurred in counties along the Mississippi and some river bottoms. Almost all of the peach and apple trees are budding or blooming. Little to no freeze damage was reported to fruit crops. Strawberries were rated in fair-to-good condition, with a few reports of early harvesting. Farmers were also fertilizing hay fields and pastures last week. Other activities included applying pesticides, repairing equipment, and land preparations.

There were 5 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 7 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 4 percent very short, 11 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged four to six degrees below normal across Tennessee last week, while rainfall averaged one third to one inch below normal.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2007	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Apples – Budding or Beyond	93	75	99	94	Apples	0	2	25	66	7
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	67	34	92	79	Pastures	2	10	35	45	8
Corn – Planted	17	5	66	64	Peaches	0	1	16	66	17
Peaches – Budding or Beyond	98	90	100	98	Strawberries	2	4	30	55	9
Peaches – Blooming or Beyond	87	65	99	90	Winter Wheat	1	5	16	59	19
Winter Wheat – Jointed	82	60	97	91						
Winter Wheat – Headed	2	n/a	38	22						
Winter Wheat – Top Dressed	93	89	100	99						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Wheat continues to progress well. Estimate probably 8-10,000 acres of wheat affected by flood waters. Some fields showing signs of excessive soil moisture from several days of saturated soils with water. Corn planting has begun this week with producers planting driest or dryer fields first. If good weather holds next week it will be very, very busy with corn planting.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“Producers finally were able to start corn planting with earnest mid-week, but rainfall on Friday brought all fieldwork to a halt. Producers were also busy applying fertilizer to corn land, pastures and hay fields, herbicides to wheat and burn down herbicides to no-till corn land.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Giles County saw an F3 tornado pass through the northern part of the county on Friday, 4-11-08, around lunch time. There were no fatalities or injuries. Several homes were damaged. Reports indicate that at least five cows and calves were killed. Several thousand feet of fence were destroyed and several barns were damaged and/or destroyed. One dairy farmer had extensive damage to his milking parlor. Corn planting is in full swing. Soil moisture is perfect for planting. Periodical rainfalls have greatly helped pastures and hay fields this spring.”

Kevin Rose, Giles County

“Corn planting has resumed this week with some drying conditions. Pastures in general are still slow to recover.”

John Wilson, Blount County

“Strawberry growers have begun to harvest some early berries and the peach, apple and blueberry crops have come through with a minimal amount of damage.”

Kim Frady, Bradley County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
For week ending: April 20, 2008 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending April 20, 2008				Current Week 4/20/08	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
Ames_Plantation	77	29	52	-11	0.34	2	21.79	4.04	6.11	2.31
Tri-City_RGNL_A	81	27	50	-6	0.28	3	12.59	-0.09	1.67	-0.53
Brownsville_TN	75	31	53	-10	0.67	1	22.6	5.09	6.35	2.8
Chattanooga/Lov	79	35	55	-6	0.66	2	16.09	-2.73	1.95	-0.97
Clarksville_Sew	75	30	54	-5	0.37	2	19.33	2.48	6.2	3.17
Cookeville	78	29	49	-9	0.59	4	16.62	-1.65	3.7	0.63
Covington	74	32	51	-10	0.52	1	22.17	4.69	6.51	2.89
Crossville_AP	74	31	50	-7	0.49	4	18.26	-0.14	5.09	1.89
Dayton	78	33	53	-7	0.59	2	14.35	-4.87	2.05	-0.97
Dickson_AG	76	30	53	-7	0.69	3	22.41	4.88	7.49	4.14
Dover_1W	75	31	52	-7	0.55	2	24.89	7.51	7.53	4.22
Dyersburg	75	34	54	-9	0.5	1	19.35	3.28	5.81	2.72
Erwin_1W	83	30	50	-5	0.36	2	11.18	-3.1	1.39	-1.24
Huntingdon_Wate	76	31	51	-9	0.6	2	23.93	6.92	7.33	4.24
Jackson_Exp_Stn	77	30	53	-8	0.37	3	25.48	8.7	6.76	3.41
Kingston_AG	80	31	52	-6	0.69	3	15.86	-3.34	3	0.05
Knoxville_AP	79	35	54	-5	0.65	3	14.69	-1.27	2.47	-0.03
Lewisburg	76	27	49	-9	0.9	1	16.37	-1.44	4.57	1.5
Lexington_TN	75	29	51	-10	0.65	2	23.95	7.56	6.59	3.55
Linden	77	29	51	-9	0.81	3	24.24	5.86	7.15	3.93
Martin	75	32	52	-8	0.52	1	24.08	7.27	6.24	2.84
Mc_Minnville_Tn	77	33	55	-6	0.5	2	14.07	-3.49	3.98	1.01
Memphis_AG	78	31	53	-11	0.6	2	26.34	9.01	9.04	5.38
Milan	78	28	52	-8	0.5	3	25.53	8.46	8.38	5.1
Murfreesboro_5N	77	29	50	-10	0.61	3	16.2	-0.67	4.05	1.12
Nashville_Metro	77	31	52	-8	0.46	3	19.5	4.25	6.68	3.82
Newcomb	80	29	49	-6	0.24	3	13.04	-3.93	2.51	-0.44
Oneida	79	30	50	-5	0.38	2	8.02	-8.95	2.29	-0.66
Portland_TN	76	31	51	-8	0.56	4	21.71	5.37	7.4	4.52
Pulaski_Water_P	76	30	50	-13	0.82	2	18.49	-0.07	4.42	1.43
Savannah_6SW	78	30	53	-10	0.55	2	22.08	2.84	5.03	1.43
Sparta_TN	78	28	53	-6	0.64	3	15.4	-2.36	3.38	0.34
Springfield	77	30	52	-6	0.34	2	20.28	4.39	6.82	3.96
Springhill	77	30	51	-7	0.84	2	16.67	-1.49	5.04	1.67
Union_City	73	29	50	-9	0.49	3	22.32	5.77	6.12	2.92
Waynesboro_TN	76	27	51	-8	0.74	1	19.29	-0.22	5.09	1.54

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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